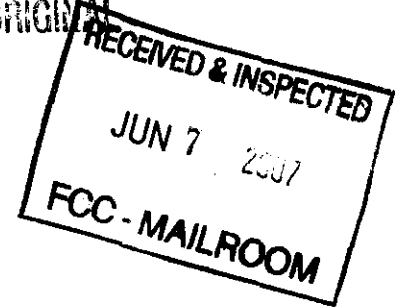


May 31, 2007

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Portals II, Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554



Re: Reply Comments
Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability
GN Docket No. 07-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to submit these reply comments in support of the Comments of the American Library Association (ALA) in this proceeding. My name is Patricia Chapman. I am the library director for Park County, Colorado.

The ALA raised some important issues in its comments in this proceeding. I am writing to augment some of those concerns. First, we support the ALA's request that the Commission explore the impact of broadband technologies on public libraries. As the ALA noted, about 98% of public libraries provide some form of Internet access. In our county we have 4 county public libraries, which provide 10 computers to our patrons and each have Internet connectivity. The Internet connectivity provided by our public libraries is increasingly important. We find that our public libraries are used by students, elderly, farmers, low-income people, independent contractors, and teachers, just to name a few.

The ALA also noted, however, that only 45% of public libraries nationwide are satisfied with their level of broadband connectivity. We are concerned that the current marketplace is not working adequately to meet the needs of our public libraries. The complexity of finding adequate broadband connectivity is often overwhelming and beyond the expertise of our librarian staff. As a result of these difficulties, we are not able to meet the needs of our patrons as we would like and as they expect.

For these reasons, we support ALA's suggestion that the FCC should encourage the public providers of broadband connectivity to work more closely with public libraries. Our public libraries need more bandwidth, preferably at lower rates than the general "market-based rates" that are currently being offered to us. But most important, we would like to find a way for the broadband providers in our state to work with us to find solutions to our broadband issues. Given the important role that public libraries play in our society and economy, we encourage the FCC to increase its focus on the need to provide public libraries with enhanced broadband connectivity in this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Patricia Chapman

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